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letter from the frontiers. The good people here do not seem quite as secure of our triumph over the French, as we vain fellows do; at least, they are taking prudent precautions to ensure a retreat to the Brazils.

"I had contracted an intimacy with a very learned and gentleman-like French professor, at the Convent of St. Vincent's (one of the finest, by the bye, in Portugal) they have a very elegant library, immensely large, and full of the rarest and most valuable books, where I used to pass many a pleasant hour. What was my surprise on going there one day, after a fortnight's absence, while I was ill, to find every thing packed up, and ready to send aboard a ship, those prudent monks had hired to convey them at a moment's warning to the Brazils. It is the same in every private and public place. Every thing of value is removed, or ready to be so. I think that for this once if the French do beat us (which in my *humble* opinion is *impossible*) they will find little worth plundering in Portugal. The chapels are already pretty well stript, and all the principal merchants are prepared to set off at a moment's warning.

"You have no doubt heard, that General Beresford is made field marshal here to instruct and organize the Portuguese troops. I shall take the liberty of sending you what I hope you have not before read, and what is in my opinion a very beautiful extract on the death of Lord Nelson. I know my father and mother will read it with great pleasure, a thought that gives me no small degree of the same sensation."

"ON LORD NELSON'S DEATH.

"Still it is impossible to reflect upon the great victory which that gallant hero purchased for us with his life, without feeling a mixed emotion of joy and sorrow, of mourning and triumph. The *glory* and the *calamity*, like the angels of Mercy and Affliction travelled together.

"At what period was that victory achieved! how seasonable! how well timed! Whilst on the Continent, a wretched and incapable general,* had without a battle, surrendered himself alive into the hands of Buonaparte, our *English* hero, once more, and for

the last time fought and conquered the united foes of his country. But, he fell in the meridian of his fame, and one moment made him immortal in *both* worlds.

"His career of services had been long, but it was in the middle of the last war that he burst upon the public eye as a luminary of the first magnitude.

"At the battle of Aboukir, he rose like the sun in the east, and like the sun too, after a summer's day of glory, he set in the west at the battle of Trafalgar, leaving the ocean in a blaze as he went down, and in darkness when he had descended.

"In ages to come, when the stranger who visits this island, shall inquire for the monument of *Nelson*, the answer will be—"Behold his country which he saved."

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PERMIT me to reply to "Farmer." (see your Magazine for March 1809, page 193, No. 8) That writer says, "the statement is fairly made on one acre in the drill, or rather bank-mode, and one acre in the lazy-bed way." Now I contend *this is not* the case; let the reader determine. The charges on one acre in the drill way, are stated at 3*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* (including forty loads of dung, 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*) The charges on one acre in the lazy-bed mode, are stated at 2*3l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* (including *three hundred and twenty* loads of dung, 1*7l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) Is there not in the latter case, charged for dung *eight times* the sum, and quantity charged for it in the former? To have made the comparison "fair," the dung for each process should have been alike in quality and expense, unless it be true, that in order to raise a lazy-bed crop of potatoes, exceeding a drilled one, *only two barrels*, eight times the dung and seed be required; also, that more than seven times the expense in labour is requisite, and that the benefit to the succeeding crops is *equal*. Whatever may be the opinion on the quantity and expense of dung, seed, and labour, requisite for each process; it will not be contended, I presume, that forty loads of dung will be as beneficial to the succeeding crops as three hundred and twenty loads; the *excess* ought to

* General Mack.

go to the credit of that process, to which the greater quantity was applied. There is another circumstance which makes the statement in question not fairly comparable; viz., that as the ploughing and harrowing of the drill crop are not charged, because, "they would be given the land had it been a fallow;" for the same reason, the lazy-bed mode should have been charged only with whatever expense was bestowed on it in labour for the potatoes, more than would have been bestowed had it been a fallow. How the Farmer could make such a mistake as to imagine that the last statement was a fair one for *one acre*, I am at a loss to conjecture; perhaps it arose from his taking it for granted that it was so, because the author expressly says "he has given it for one acre only;" I also might have been deceived by this assertion, had I not observed in the *next lines*, the words, "here we have *eight acres* highly dressed for a subsequent crop." It is true, he says, "with the same quantity of dung as the *one acre*," it is, however, a fact, that he has *charged eight times* the quantity." Certainly, no person who is acquainted with the expense of planting potatoes with the spade, can think that eight acres could be done in that way for *2l. 3s. 4d.* I am in doubt whether *one acre* be done generally for that sum, indeed I am inclined to think the expenses on the *drill* method are also underrated. You have the "Farmer's," and my opinion on anonymous communications, and you will, I have no doubt, "know what value to set upon them," and while I acknowledge that, "the value of communications ought to be estimated by the importance of the subjects, and the soundness of the reasoning employed, and not by the name of the author," I hope I may be allowed

to entertain the opinion that, *unimportant* subjects, and *unsound* reasoning are more likely to come from the anonymous writer, than from him who gives his name; for this plain reason, that the latter will be more wary, as *he may lose his reputation* as well as have his feelings wounded, while the former can sustain only *one* of those mortifications. On subjects of agriculture, the name and place of abode of a writer are particularly useful, the farmer who is about adopting any system recommended, wants to be satisfied in a thousand particulars, which the author may not have noticed; many of your readers who would ride miles for such information, would not put pen to paper to obtain it; more value would be set on five minutes' *conversation* with the person recommending any system, than on volumes of book-information; in saying this I take it for granted "book-farming" is esteemed in this country, as little as it is in England. Although "The Farmer's Magazine," principally composed of anonymous pieces, is held in great estimation, and has materially served the cause of agriculture, it does not follow that it would not have been in *higher* estimation, and have still more served the cause of agriculture, had it not contained so many anonymous communications. Lest the "Farmer" should fancy I am a favourer of the lazy-bed mode, in preference to the *drill* one, I assure him I am not; it will not be easy to bring an Englishman to prefer the former, at least if profit be his object; but I find the prevailing opinion is, that if the *palate* only be consulted; the lazy-bed mode should be practised. I am Sir, your obedient servant, Wm. GOOCH.

Castle-Upton, April 1809.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

AS the life of BOYSE, the poet, may not happen to be universally known, and as the detail of the errors of his life, and the consequences attendant on them, may probably be

an useful caution somewhere, I hope you will allow them a place in your valuable Miscellany. I am, Sir,

Your constant reader, W.

Newry, Dec. 10, 1808.

SAMUEL BOYSE, was the son of Joseph Boyse, a respectable dissenting